

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF THE "SS STEPHEN HOPKINS"

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 1997

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the distinguished service of the SS *Stephen Hopkins*, an American merchant vessel, who sailed during World War II.

The SS *Hopkins* holds a unique distinction in U.S. merchant marine history. On Saturday, September 27 the city and county of San Francisco will observe SS *Stephen Hopkins* Day and the 55th anniversary of the only American Ship to sink a German Navy Surface Warship.

The *Hopkins* sailed out of her home port in San Francisco on April 14, 1942. On September 17, 1942, during her maiden voyage in the South Atlantic Sea the *Hopkins* and her crew waged a courageous battle against two heavily armed German vessels. This battle earned the *Hopkins* the citation of U.S. Government *Gallant Ship*. Her citation inscription recounts the events of that fateful day when, "Two enemy raiders suddenly appeared out of the morning mist to attack her. The lightly armed merchantmen exchanged shot for shot with the enemy raiders, sinking one and setting the other a fire. The stark courage of her crew in their heroic stand against overpowering odds caused her name to be perpetuated as a *Gallant Ship*." The *Hopkins* was lost as a result of that valiant battle after sustaining destroyed engines, exploded boilers, and catching fire from stem to stern. Only 15 of the 19 surviving crew survived the 31-day lifeboat trip which brought them to safety in Brazil.

Mr. Speaker on behalf of the Congress, let us join the veteran merchant mariners and San Francisco community in commemorating the service of SS *Stephen Hopkins* and the brave crew who sailed her into history.

THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF KURT AND ELIZABETH BOOTH, OCTOBER 4, 1997

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege and honor to pay tribute to Kurt and Elizabeth Booth of Lacey Township, NJ. On October 4, 1997, Mr. and Mrs. Booth will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Kurt Booth was born in Elizabeth, NJ on March 23, 1927. After graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1944, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. During his service as a marine, Kurt did a tour of duty in World War II's Pacific campaign and did occupation duty in Japan. He was discharged from the Marine Corps on August 21, 1946.

Elizabeth Mazur was born in Carteret, NJ. She moved with her family to New Castle, NY, and then moved back to Rahway, NJ, where she graduated from high school in 1946.

The couple met in November of 1946 at the Twin City Roller Skating Rink, while Kurt was employed as a postal worker in Elizabeth. On Valentine's Day 1947, they were engaged and on October 4, 1947 they were married at the Russian Orthodox Church in Rahway.

They moved to Lacey Township in October of 1975 and have lived there ever since. Kurt was employed as an electrical contractor with offices in Lacey and Woodbridge, NJ. Since his retirement in 1992, Kurt has worked part time as a photographer with Ocean County, NJ. Kurt Booth served as chairman of the Chairman's Ball Ad Journal for 6 years and co-chairman of the Ocean County Candidates Ad Journal for 12 years. Kurt was also the designer of the journals and most of their ads as well as a very effective fund raiser for the party.

Kurt and Elizabeth have a son, Professor Kenneth Kurt Booth, who spent 14 years in South Africa teaching people how to provide veterinary care to animals in the community. He now resides in the United States with his three children.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Booth's commitment to each other, illustrated by their 50 years together, is a testament to their characters. Not only have they enriched the lives of those they have come into direct contact with, but they have displayed immense leadership in their community, State, and country. It is with great pleasure that I recognize this couple on this special occasion.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2267) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Miller language adopted into H.R. 2267, the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State appropriations bill. These instructions will set aside a small amount of funding for the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys to provide assistance to the victims of human rights abuses in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Since at least 1984, Federal officials have expressed concern about the CNMI alien labor system. Worker complaints over wages and

working conditions are continuing undiminished according to the third annual report of the Federal-CNMI Initiative. The Governments of the Philippines and China have expressed concerns about the treatment of their citizens in this U.S. Commonwealth and allegations persist regarding the CNMI's inability to protect workers against crimes such as illegal recruitment, battery, rape, child labor, and forced prostitution.

Without Representative MILLER's language in H.R. 2267, individuals who have been the subject of human rights abuses—right here in the United States—have only the charity of private relief organizations to rely upon for help. In Hawaii, the Filipino Solidarity Coalition is currently providing sanctuary to a young girl named Katrina who came to Hawaii as a Government witness. When Katrina was 14 she was brought to the CNMI by an employer who promised her a good job and fair wages in the restaurant industry. When she arrived in the CNMI her hopes for a better life were destroyed. She discovered that the employer had lured her to the CNMI under false pretenses. Not only was she confined to her assigned living quarters but she was also forced into service as a prostitute. Katrina had few options and even less money but she escaped her confines and filed suit against her employer with the help of the local Philippine consulate. When Katrina's actions were revealed to her employer, her life was threatened. To escape the abusive situation, the consulate helped her to find refuge in Guam. However, Guam's close proximity to her former employer still put Katrina in a dangerous situation.

Through the help of the Filipino Solidarity Coalition, Katrina managed to escape to Hawaii where local donations and a small grant from the Department of Labor helped to provide her shelter, food, and further legal assistance. However, there are many others who remain in the CNMI still suffering the abuse and indignity that Katrina managed to escape. I appreciate the Chairman's support of the Miller language which will help those like Katrina who are victims of human rights abuse, not faraway in a foreign country, but right here in the United States of America.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. RICHARD J. LEHMAN, PASTOR OF THE CON- GREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Richard J. Lehman, pastor of the Congregational United Church of Christ, in Farmingville, Long Island, who this Sunday will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

Along with the golden anniversary of his ordination in 1947, Reverend Lehman will also

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